



August 31, 2009

David Cole
Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Mr. Cole.

My name is Douglas Callnan. I own and operate a sixty plus year old grain elevator in Houlton, Maine called Agri-Cal, Inc. Our company buys grain from growers from Fort Kent to Island Falls. We truck ship these locally grown grains in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Sixty to seventy percent of our grain is rail shipped on the MMA, west as far as Ohio, and south to Maryland and north to the Northern Vermont border. If the Madawaska subdivision of the MMA were to be abandon, all of my so called "long distance" accounts would be lost. Truck freight would be cost prohibitive.

The added expense of truck freight to these markets would make my company uncompetitive with the closer Canadian providences as well as southern states that produce similar grains. These accounts would be lost for my company as well as the Northern Maine farmers.

Also, I am in favor of Maine pursuing the federal fund program to help the state purchase the rail lines from the MMA. After the 2008 season of extremely high fuel prices, we learned that trucks cannot operate nearly as inexpensively as rail. Fuel surcharges had to be passed on to the consumers in every aspect of their lives. We all know the lower fuel prices that we have now (which are still historically high), are only temporary. Therefore, I feel we should be helping rail lines, not abandoning them as they are going to be the mode of transportation in the future.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Callnan
Agri-Cal, Inc.